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McFawn returns to lab as executive director

by 1st Lt. Morgan J. O'Brien, AFRL Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — Les McFawn, who began his career in the Air Force career in 1969, assigned to the Avionics Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, has returned to the Air Force Research Laboratory as executive director.

As executive director, McFawn will be the principal assistant to the commander and the senior civilian executive responsible for managing the Air Force's \$1.3 billion science and technology program. He also manages an additional \$1.1 billion from the laboratory's customers.

"When I was offered the assignment, I was ecstatic," McFawn said. "It's an opportunity to work with great professionals on leading edge technology that makes a real difference for America's national security."

A former director of AFRL's Sensors Directorate from 1997-1999, McFawn comes from his post as Deputy Director of Plans and Programs, Air Force Materiel Command. He replaces Robert May Jr., who held the position at AFRL for the past three years.

"My predecessor did a terrific job. I plan to continue his initiative to baseline and regularly review cost, schedule, performance and risk on our Advanced Technology Demonstrations so that we deliver what we promise to the warfighters," McFawn said.

McFawn, together with AFRL's Commander Maj. Gen. Paul D. Nielsen, will co-chair seven international forums with Australia, Canada, France, Israel, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Singapore.

"I want to use these forums to foster strong bilateral collaboration and leverage the research and development strengths of our international partners," he said.

McFawn brings a leadership style to AFRL based on trust, respect for others and listening.

"I like to set meaningful goals for the organization and then follow through and achieve them. And I like to have a little fun on the job at the same time," he said.

McFawn holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Florida State University (FSU), Tallahassee, Fla., 1968. McFawn received his master's degree in electrical engineering from FSU the following year. He received his master's degree in computer engineering from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich., 1977. @